

CLAIMS

- 1 A method for recovering a polypeptide comprising:
 - (a) exposing a composition comprising a polypeptide to a reagent which binds to,
5 or modifies, the polypeptide, wherein the reagent is immobilized on a solid phase;
and then
 - (b) passing the composition through a filter bearing a charge which is opposite to
the charge of the reagent in the composition, so as to remove leached reagent from
the composition.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the charge characteristics of the polypeptide in the
composition in step (b) are such that the polypeptide passes through the filter.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is positively charged.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is negatively charged.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is placed in line with the composition
15 exposed to the reagent as in step (a).
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the immobilized reagent is a protease.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the protease is pepsin.
- 20 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the polypeptide exposed to the protease in step (a) is
a precursor polypeptide and the protease removes a precursor domain from the
polypeptide.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the precursor domain comprises a leucine zipper.
- 30 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide is an antibody.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the antibody is a F(ab')₂ fragment.
- 35 12. A method for recovering a polypeptide comprising removing a leached reagent from
a composition comprising the polypeptide and the leached reagent by passing the
composition through a filter bearing a charge opposite to that of the leached reagent,
wherein the leached reagent was previously immobilized on a solid phase.

- 5
13. A method for modifying a precursor antibody comprising a leucine zipper comprising exposing the precursor antibody to a protease immobilized on a solid phase such that the protease removes the leucine zipper from the precursor antibody.
- 10
14. The method of claim 13 further comprising passing the antibody from which the leucine zipper has been removed through a positively charged filter.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein the protease is pepsin.
16. The method of claim 13 wherein the solid phase comprises controlled pore glass beads.
- 15
17. The method of claim 13 wherein the antibody is a $F(ab')_2$.
- 20
18. The method of claim 13 wherein the leucine zipper is GCN4.
19. The method of claim 13 wherein the antibody binds CD18.